

Rural Counties Task Force DRAFT Meeting Minutes

For

November 18, 2004 – 12:30 PM

at

SaCOG 1415 L Street, Suite 300

SACRAMENTO, CA

Item A: Self introductions and sign in sheet.

Item B: Minutes approved from October Rural Counties Task Force meeting with no changes.

Item C: Rescue Transportation Proposal

Mike Evanhoe presented an updated version of the Rescue Transportation Proposal.

He mentioned the recent Focus on the Future Conference held by the Self-Help Counties Coalition and some attendees/guests. Diane McKenna (former CTC), Kirk Lindsey (CTC), Brent Felker (HDR), Jim Earp (Jobs Alliance Coalition), and Andrew Antwih (Consultant to the Assembly Transportation Committee). Antwih indicated that the Prop 42 transfers would be suspended for another 2 years. Then Evanhoe mentioned some recent articles in the newspapers that relayed the Legislative Analyst's (Elizabeth Hill) outlook of approximately 4 more years of Prop 42 suspensions. There is suspicion that the previous Prop 42 "loans" will be forgiven as well.

Mike discussed the components of the proposal. He mentioned that the item in the proposal that has been most controversial is the authority of the CTC to raise the fuel tax in the off year of the STIP based on consumer price indexing. Of course the legislature could overturn any decisions with a 2/3 vote. This component of the proposal will most likely remain as a bargaining chip. Discussions on this proposal will continue through March with efforts to get government agency support (local) and then begin collecting campaign money from the private sector. July 2007 would see the first impact if this proposal is approved.

Item D: Legislation and State Budget

Assembly Bill 2456 is being re-introduced in the next legislative session. This bill changes the language from Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) to Project Development and Delivery. PPM was noticed for action on the CTC Agenda in August and is rumored to be on the Agenda in December. This would be good because a number of agencies are ready to backfill PPM in their agency budgets.

August Gaming Compacts are expected to be in the amount of \$850 million pending the escape from legal battles.

Item E: Rural Transportation Liaison Proposal

A revised proposal was distributed to the group. The proposal was presented and the changes noted. Kathryn Mathews explained that the established committee convened in October to discuss the

proposal. Present at the committee meeting were Mike Woodman (Nevada County for Dan Landon), Phil Dow, Celia McAdam, Kathryn Mathews, George Dondero and Jeff Schwein. The committee agreed that:

- Estimated the costs of the proposal to be approximately \$150,000/year.
- LTF and RPA funding could be used.
- The rural counties that don't have the staffing or proximity to be involved in the Statewide transportation efforts would benefit most by having a full time liaison. It was an oversight that the very rural areas were not included in the committee mtg.
- The committee structure of the Rural Counties Task Force could be strengthened.
- The rural counties could benefit by having a full time liaison.

The committee recommended that the task force members review the proposal and provide comments. The smaller remote counties will be included in the next committee meeting to be held via conference call before the January meeting. Marty Byrne will join the committee.

George and Kathryn have had discussions with RCRC regarding the overhead logistics of the proposed liaison. There was a general agreement from the group that the issue continues to be pursued.

Extra Item: RCTF Elections

Mike Woodman was nominated to be the Secretary and Jeff Schwein was nominated to be the Vice Chairman.

Item F: California Performance Review

RCRC and CSAC comments on the CRP are included in the packet. The 6500 miles of highway relinquishments were discussed. The general consensus is that this imposition of new roadways to maintain on the Counties is unfair and may be considered an un-funded mandate. But, it was recognized that there are some exceptions to the relinquishments that will benefit local agencies. Scott Maas also pointed out that the State should take responsibility for some local roads that are serving as connectors between State Highways.

Item H: Transit Updates

Jake Smith thanked the group for their support over the last year. He followed up on a letter he wrote 1 year ago in a goal of making TDA better. He reported on that positive progress:

TDA working group is now in place and working on issues.

Regular briefings are given at the RCTF meetings by Jake or his Staff.

Jake also noted that they are available to travel to regional agencies to discuss the issues with SSTAC's or Commissions. The Department now has Art Bauer as a consultant to provide district staff training on TDA administration. Nicole Bennett has been working on a TDA guidebook with the TDA working group.

Dan Landon suggested sending a letter to the CT Director recognizing Jake's effort.

Item J: TDA Working Committee Report

John Jelichich initiated the discussion of package delivery on local buses. Apparently, the busses cannot, according to statute, count freight and package delivery in the farebox recovery. John and Scott Maas presented a sample survey to gather information regarding this practice. John will distribute the survey as a pilot survey.

Item G: Visit by Will Kempton

Caltrans Director Will Kempton was welcomed to the Task Force group. Mr. Kempton was pleased to be the first Director of Caltrans to come to a Rural Counties Task Force meeting. He would like to be a visible director and will rely on the RCTF to provide input on transportation issues in Ca. The rurals were recognized as areas that have little hope in passing sales tax initiatives, especially because some recent measures passed by as much as 70%. That is an opportunistic setback for any chance of changing the voting threshold. Will commented on the talent and dedication of the Department that he has witnessed his first 2 weeks in the Directors position. He plans on furthering the goal of the Department to become a better partner and improve project delivery. He is dedicated to the Performance Improvement Initiative and hopes the Departments problems are in the past. The cooperative agreement delays are being worked on and should take less than 60 days in the future. Mr. Kempton discussed the problems with the environmental process being that it is too “bombproof”, and could be modified to streamline the process.

Kathryn Mathews asked the Director about the Prop 42 expected suspensions, STIP allocations, and the State Budget. Mr. Kempton expected that the \$6 billion budget deficit will lead to more raids on all the State programs, including the transportation programs. He applauded the efforts of the sales tax initiatives and the Rescue Transportation initiative. Will wants everyone to convey the message to their elected officials that transportation has a big impact on the State’s economy and that the investment in transportation will bring more money to California services and programs and strengthen the quality of life for the citizens.

Scott Maas pointed out the disparity between the SHOPP program and the STIP program is growing and the locals need to protect our resources somehow. Mr. Kempton is sensitive to the balance of SHOPP and STIP, and suggests being vigilant in letting the CTC know about local shortcomings.

Item I: CalACT Conference

Pete Spaulding-The 2004 Fall conference session reviews were distributed and the scheduled Fall conference was discussed. The first week in October 2005, the Fall conference will be held in Monterey at the Hyatt Regency. This year, Pete would like to get the material out about 2 months earlier than last year.

Pete suggested the first conference committee meeting should be held in January near the 21st RCTF meeting. Kathryn Mathews, Charles Field, Dan Landon, and Jeff Schwein will be on the committee so far.

CalACT is developing a white paper regarding rural transit in California and is forming an advisory committee with RTAP, CT, and other organizations. Pete asked for a representative from our group. Tentative release will be Dec 31, 2005. This project is an outcome of a proposal to Caltrans for the RTAP program.

Item k: ARB Emissions Rule

The ARB is delaying the proposal of the Fleet Rule regulation changes until January 2005 and expecting action in February. It was noted that CalACT and Tehama County have example comment letters regarding the proposal. The formal rulemaking will begin in January and then a 45 day review period will take place.

Item L: Performance Measures

There will be a performance measures workshop in riverside on December 8th in the morning. The meeting will provide example projects from a rural area.